

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 00457 210616Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

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RUFHNSJXUSNATO 2901

CINCEUR

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USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T ANKARA 0457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: EMBASSY DISCUSSES SEVERAL CURRENT

IRRITANTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH YAVUZALP (DIRECTOR GENERAL INTERNATIONALS SECURITY AFFAIRS MFA) AT MINISTRY EVENING JANUARY 18, EMBOFF (MSA COUNS) EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SEVERAL RECENT HAPPENINGS WHICH, COMING ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, HAD GIVEN RISE TO PUZZLEMENT AT EMBASSY. YAVUZALP BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO EXPLAIN EACH EVENT AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WAS NO INTERCONNECTION AMONG THEM NOR DID THEY FORESHADOW POLICY OF INCOMING GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY SEVERAL OCCURANCES IN PAST FEW DAYS HAMPERING U.S. OPERATIONS HERE WHICH POTENTIALLY CONTAINED SEEDS OF LARGER DIFFICULTIES WITH TURKS. THESE INCLUDE (A) WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL OF CVA ROOSEVELT ISTANBU VISIT AND REFUSAL OF ISTANBUL PORT VISIT REQUEST FOR SILVER FOX SHIPS; (B) TURKISH AIR FORCE STATEMENT THAT TAF WOULD NOT CLEAR U.S. F-4 AIRCRAFT OUT OF INCIRLIK FOR NEXT ROTATION UNTIL NUMBER AT SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ANKARA 00457 210616Z

INCIRLIK REACHED AND REMAINED AT 18; (C) STRONG REQUEST FROM

MFA THAT PROJECT TO BUILD 200 MILITARY HOUSING UNITS (FOR WHICH WE HAD NOT REQUESTED PERMISSION BUT ONLY INFORMED THE TURKS) BE SUSPENDED PENDING FURTHER TURKISH STUDY AND FORMAL COMMUNICATION TO US OF GOT VIEWS; AND (D) UNRELATED BUT SIMULTANEOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN HASHISH CASE INVOLVING THREE U.S. SAILORS IN IZMIR, IN WHICH JUDGE, REFERRING CASE FOR TRIAL BY HIGHER COURT, SUGGESTED CHARGES BE ELEVATED FROM SIMPLE POSSESSION TO MUCH MORE SERIOUS OFFENSE WHICH COULD INVOLVE DEATH SENTENCE OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

3. IN TWO HOUR TALK AT FOREIGN MINISTRY EVENING JANUARY 18, WE EXPRESSED OUR PUZZLEMENT AND CONCERN OVER THESE EVENTS TO YAVUZALP, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. (SEPTELS WILL REPORT DISCUSSION OF EACH ITEM ON LIST OF GRIEVANCES.)

4. YAVUZALP WAS DISQUIETED BY OUR APPROACH. HE TOOK PAINS, IN DISCUSSING EACH ITEM, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT BORE NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE OTHERS AND THAT THE CLOSE-TOGETHER TIMING WAS PURE COINCIDENCE.

IF, HE SAID, U.S. THOUGHT THESE EVENTS REPRESENTED SOME SORT OF ADVANCE REFLECTION OF POLICY OF INCOMING GOVERNMENT, THIS WAS WRONG. INCOMING GOVERNMENT FAVORED NATO MEMBERSHIP AND POLICY OF DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH U.S., ALTHOUGH IT WAS ADMITTEDLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FORECAST WHAT ITS POSITION WOULD BE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. IN ANY EVENT, MINISTRY'S AIM IN DEALING WITH ALL SUCH CASES WAS TO AVOID THE CREATION OF SITUATIONS WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE CLIMATE FOR U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION IN TURKEY, EITHER BY OBVIOUSLY FLOUTING TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY OR BY LENDING THEMSELVES TO EXPLOITATION BY ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO U.S. NAD NATO.

5. WE ACCEPTED YAVUZALP'S STATEMENT THAT NO CONCERTED POLICY LAY BEHIND EVENTS IN QUESTION. ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, WE SUGGESTED WITHOUT ESPOUSING IT, WAS THAT THE MINISTRY WAS SIMPLY SEEKING TO FREEZE EVERYTHING IN PLACE UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS INSTALLED. YAVUZALP ALSO DENIED THIS. HE SAID GOT WOULD AVOID MAJOR NEW COMMITMENTS UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IN PLACE, BUT THAT REGULAR ONGOING BUSINESS WOULD CONTINUE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HAD SAME DAY SENT TELEGRAM TO AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AUTHORIZING HIM TO SIGN F-4 LOAN AGREEMENT. BUT CURRENT GOT WOULD NOT, AGAIN BY WAY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ANKARA 00457 210616Z

OF EXAMPLE, ENTER INTO MAJOR NEW ARMS BUY, WHICH WAS KIND OF DECISION THAT SHOULD RIGHTLY BE LEFT FOR NEW GOVERNMENT.

6. WE SAID THAT IN OUR OPERATIONS IN TURKEY, WE ALWAYS TOOK CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY, AND ALSO SHARED OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING ACTIONS THAT COULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF THOSE OPPOSED TO U.S.-TURKISH COOPERATION. BUT A THIRD ELEMENT HAD TO BE ADDED TO EQUATION: OPERATIONAL NECESSITY OF MILITARY FORCES. IF A GIVEN

ACTION RISKED CAUSING SOME POLITICAL DAMAGE, IT HAD TO BE DECIDED HOW NECESSARY IT WAS AND WHETHER THIS OUTWEIGHED THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE. IN SOME CASES, IT MIGHT BE CONCLUDED THAT THE ACTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN. IN OTHERS, THE ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN AND THE BROKEN CHINA ACCEPTED.

7. YAVUZALP REPLIED THAT GOT RECOGNIZED THIS AND IN CASES WHERE U.S. COULD DEMONSTRATE OVERRIDING NECESSITY IN INTEREST OF JOINT SECURITY, TURKEY HAD IN PAST GONE ALONG AND WOULD DO SO IN FUTURE. CONVERSATION ENDED WITH YAVUZALP AGAIN STRESSING THAT NOTHING SINISTER OR ALARMING LAY BEHIND EVENTS WE HAD TAKEN UP WITH HIM
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